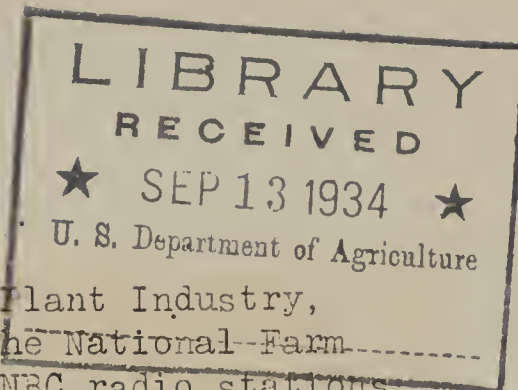


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THE GARDEN CALENDAR



A radio discussion by W. R. Beattie, Bureau of Plant Industry, delivered in the Department of Agriculture period of the National Farm and Home Hour, broadcast by a network of 50 associate NBC radio stations Thursday, September 6, 1934.

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Hello Folks: My opportunities for travel these days are rather limited, and it is seldom that I get away from Washington for a trip such as I took a couple of weeks ago northward through Maryland, Pennsylvania, following the Susquehanna trail to Elmira and other points in southern and western New York. I passed through a country of wonderful scenic beauty, with well-kept homes, orchards and gardens -- many of the orchards laden with apples, pears, and in New York State near Lake Ontario, I had the thrill of finding ripe cherries still on the trees.

When I go on a trip of this kind in my automobile, I like to wander away from the main highways and get off onto the lateral roads in search of the unusual things in gardens and orchards. On this trip as one of my associates remarked I was "celery-minded." I was looking for the peat bogs and muck land areas where celery is grown on a large scale.

As a matter of fact, I am preparing a new bulletin on celery growing and am looking for all of the ideas that I can find. I was headed for Toronto, Ontario, where I attended the annual convention of the National Vegetable Growers Association. I have been a member of this association almost from the time it started back in 1908, and it goes without saying that I enjoy attending the annual conventions and meeting with old friends.

No doubt some of you are market gardeners and know what it is to get up early - well President Sams, who by the way, is from Georgia and used to working from sunup to sundown, began calling the meetings of the Vegetable Growers convention at 8:00 A. M., and that was not Eastern Standard Time either but Ontario daylight saving time, one hour earlier than Eastern Standard Time. We had a good convention with a lot of the college and experiment station workers on the program to give the growers the latest information on various problems of vegetable growing such as fertilizing, control of insects and diseases, and last but not least, on the most up-to-date methods of marketing.

Fertilizer placement, or how and where to apply fertilizers for best results with the various crops, was one of the problems that was discussed at considerable length. The old idea of applying fertilizer has been to mix it with the soil and leave the rest to the selective power of the crops being grown, but recent investigations have shown that there is a definite placement of the fertilizer for each and every crop if you want to get the maximum benefit. For potatoes, for example, the best placement appears to be at the side and about on the same level

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as the seed. The old idea was to place the fertilizer in the bottom of the furrow in which the potatoes are planted and mix it with the soil before dropping the seed, but according to the latest findings this gives a yield 30 or 40 bushels less than drilling the fertilizer on both sides of the seed and 3 or 4 inches distant from the seed pieces.

The transportation of vegetables and the passage of legislation by the various States regulating truck transportation came up for a lively discussion and the members gave their experiences in the use of trucks for transporting their products to market, citing the limitations that were being imposed upon the use of trucks for this purpose. All agreed, however, that the motor truck had greatly improved the distribution of perishable products and where, in some cases, it increased competition on local markets, it also made distant markets more available. Where the marketing radius in horse and wagon days was perhaps 25 miles the marketing radius with motor trucks is now 500 to 800 miles, and, in some instances, the distance is greater than 800 miles.

These and many other problems were discussed by the vegetable growers at their annual convention in Toronto. This annual convention is about the only chance many of the vegetable growers and their wives have for a vacation and I think most of those attending the Toronto convention went home with new spirit and brighter hopes for the future.

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